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Dated: November 22, 2006

Signature: 

(Beverly S. Carter)

Patent

Docket No. 393032041300



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kojiro KATO

Serial No.: 10/677,056

Filing Date: September 30, 2003

For: MIXING CONSOLE HAVING VISUAL
MARKING SYSTEM APPLIED TO
MANUAL OPERATORS WITH
SUBGROUPING

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

SUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicant submits for consideration in the above-identified application the enclosed Japanese office action. An English translation of this document is also submitted herewith. The documents cited in this office action were submitted to the U.S. Patent Office in a previous information disclosure statement. The Examiner is requested to make this document of record.

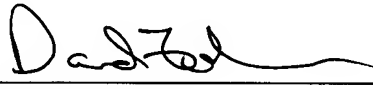
Applicant would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the duplicate copy of this paper, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including

extensions of time and authorize the Director to charge the cost of such petition and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **393032041300**.

Dated: November 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Notice of Rejection

	Issue date, October 3, 2006
Patent Application No.	Patent application No.2002-292330
Drafting Date	September 27, 2006
Examiner of JPO	Nobuyuki Seki 9249 3X00
Patent Applicant/Representative	Mr. Hideo Takino
Applied Provision	Section 29(2)

The present application should be rejected for the reason mentioned below. If the applicant has any argument against the reason, a written argument should be submitted within 60 days from the date on which this notice was dispatched.

Reason

The inventions according to the claims listed below in the present application should not be granted patents under the provision of Patent Law Section 29 (2), since the inventions could have easily been made by persons who have common knowledge in the technical fields to which the inventions pertain prior to the filing of the present application, on the basis of the inventions described in the publications listed below which were distributed in Japan or foreign countries.

Note (The list of cited documents, etc. is shown below.)

Claims: 1 to 3

Cited documents: 1 to 4

Remark:

In the mixing console, it is known as disclosed in the cited document 4 that, in order to improve operability of a group operation section having a plurality of subgroups each having a plurality of controls and being arranged in a column, the subgroups are discriminated from each other by color markings. Further, cited document 1 discloses that a plurality of controls are arranged in a column according to functions required to the controls. Thus, it is a matter of design choice for a skilled person to provide a plurality of group operation sections each having a plurality of subgroups each having a plurality of controls, to arrange the plurality of the group operation sections in a column, and to arrange all the subgroups of the plurality of the group operation sections in a column along an arranging direction of the group operation sections.

Further, it is a design matter for the skilled person to use the same marking for subgroups corresponding to a common electric

signal as a target of process and control by the first and second group operation sections.

Consequently, the invention set forth in claims 1-3 of the application can be readily devised by the skilled person based on the inventions disclosed in the cited documents 1-3.

Another notice of rejection will be issued when new reason of rejection is found.

The List of cited documents, etc.

1. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI08-32378
 2. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI09-312537
 3. Micro film of Japanese Utility Model Application No. SHO62-089156 (Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. SHO63-199319)
 4. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI09-198953
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Record of the result of prior art research

- Technical fields to be searched: IPC H01H9/18, H03G3/02

Prior art document: Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. SHO63-199319; Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. HEI06-41033; and Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI05-251950

This record of the result of prior art research is not a component of the reason for rejection.

拒絶理由通知書



特許出願の番号	特願 2 0 0 2 - 2 9 2 3 3 0
起案日	平成 1 8 年 9 月 2 7 日
特許庁審査官	関 信之 9 2 4 9 3 X 0 0
特許出願人代理人	瀧野 秀雄 様
適用条文	第 2 9 条第 2 項

この出願は、次の理由によって拒絶をすべきものである。これについて意見があれば、この通知書の発送の日から 6 0 日以内に意見書を提出して下さい。

理 由

この出願の下記の請求項に係る発明は、その出願前に日本国内又は外国において、頒布された下記 of 刊行物に記載された発明又は電気通信回線を通じて公衆に利用可能となった発明に基いて、その出願前にその発明の属する技術の分野における通常の知識を有する者が容易に発明をすることができたものであるから、特許法第 2 9 条第 2 項の規定により特許を受けることができない。

記 (引用文献等については引用文献等一覧参照)

- ・ 請求項 1 ～ 3
- ・ 引用文献等 1 ～ 4
- ・ 備考

ミキシングコンソールにおいて、複数の操作子からなるサブグループを同列に複数有したグループ操作部における操作性を向上させるために、サブグループ毎に色のマーキングにより分別することは引用例 4 に記載されているように従来から知られており、また必要とされる機能に応じてミキシングコンソールの操作子を配置方向に同列に配置することは引用例 1 に記載されているから、複数のグループ操作部の各々が複数の操作子からなるサブグループを複数有し、この複数のグループ操作部を同列に配置するとともに、この複数のグループ操作部の全サブグループがグループ操作部の配置方向に同列に配置することは、当業者が適宜なし得る設計的事項と認められる。

また、第 1 グループ操作部と第 2 グループ操作部との加工及び制御の対象として共通な電気信号にそれぞれ対応するサブグループ同士のマーキングを同一にしたことも、当業者が適宜なし得る設計的事項と認められる。

拒絶の理由が新たに発見された場合には拒絶の理由が通知される。

引 用 文 献 等 一 覧

1. 特開平8-32378号公報
 2. 特開平9-312537号公報
 3. 実願昭62-089156号 (実開昭63-199319号) のマイクロフィルム
 4. 特開平9-198953号公報
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先行技術文献調査結果の記録

- ・ 調査した分野 I P C H01H9/18, H03G3/02
- ・ 先行技術文献

実開昭63-199319号公報, 実開平6-41033号公報, 特開平5-251950号公報

この先行技術文献調査結果の記録は拒絶理由を構成するものではありません。